

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1-3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A packing method comprising:

providing a pallet;

placing an article on the pallet; and

fixing the article on the pallet, wherein

an article-fixing member is accommodated in an accommodating space internal to the pallet such that the article-fixing member can be pulled out from the accommodating space when the article is to be packed and is wound around the article to firmly fix the article on the pallet, wherein

a removable ceiling plate ~~which can be opened and closed~~ is used, when the article is packed, the removable ceiling plate is ~~opened~~ removed, the article-fixing member is wound around a surface of the article below a position where the ceiling plate will be once the removable ceiling plate is replaced, a cover is disposed between the position where the removable ceiling plate will be once the removable ceiling plate is replaced and the article, and then, the ceiling plate is ~~closed~~, ~~a cover which covers an inner periphery of the closed ceiling plate is disposed~~, ~~the surface of the article below the ceiling plate and the ceiling plate are fixed to each other through the cover~~ replaced, and

the article is an image forming apparatus, the surface of the article is a document table located below the ceiling plate, the image forming apparatus is provided at its upper surface with an automatic document feeder having a document catch tray which can open and close with respect to the document table, and the document catch tray has a shape which stands up, the article-fixing member is wound around the document table located below the automatic

document feeder having the article-fixing member which can open and close, thereby fixing the image forming apparatus on the pallet.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A packing method comprising:

providing a pallet;

placing an article on the pallet; and

fixing the article on the pallet, wherein

an article-fixing member is accommodated in an accommodating space internal to the pallet such that the article-fixing member can be pulled out from the accommodating space when the article is to be packed and is wound around the article to firmly fix the article on the pallet, wherein

a removable ceiling plate ~~which can be opened and closed~~ is used, when the article is packed, the removable ceiling plate is ~~opened~~ removed, the article-fixing member is wound around a surface of the article below a position where the ceiling plate will be once the removable ceiling plate is replaced, a cover is disposed between the position where the removable ceiling plate will be once the removable ceiling plate is replaced and the article, and then, the ceiling plate is ~~closed~~, ~~a cover which covers an inner periphery of the closed ceiling plate is disposed~~, the surface of the article below the ceiling plate and the ceiling plate ~~are fixed to each other through the cover~~ replaced, wherein

a document table corresponding to a surface below an automatic document feeder corresponding to the ceiling plate is provided with a sheet material whose covering area can be changed, the article-fixing member is wound around an upper surface of the sheet material, the sheet material and ~~[[a]]~~ the cover, which covers an upper portion of the automatic document feeder, are integrally formed together, and the automatic document feeder is fixed.

Claim 6-22 (Cancelled).

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A packing method comprising:

providing a pallet;

placing an article on the pallet; and

fixing the article on the pallet, wherein

an article-fixing member is accommodated to the pallet such that the article-fixing member can be pulled out when the article is to be packed and is wound around the article to firmly fix the article on the pallet, wherein

a removable ceiling plate ~~which can be opened and closed~~ is used, when the article is packed, the removable ceiling plate is ~~opened~~ removed, the article-fixing member is wound around a surface of the article below a position where the ceiling plate will be once the removable ceiling plate is replaced, a cover is disposed between the position where the removable ceiling plate will be once the removable ceiling plate is replaced and the article, and then, the ceiling plate is ~~closed~~, ~~a cover which covers an inner periphery of the closed ceiling plate is disposed~~, ~~the surface of the article below the ceiling plate and the ceiling plate are fixed to each other through the cover~~ replaced, and

the article is an image forming apparatus, the surface of the article is a document table located below the ceiling plate, the image forming apparatus is provided at its upper surface with an automatic document feeder having a document catch tray which can open and close with respect to the document table, and the document catch tray has a shape which stands up, the article-fixing member is wound around the document table located below the automatic document feeder having the article-fixing member which can open and close, thereby fixing the image forming apparatus on the pallet.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A packing method comprising:

providing a pallet;

placing an article on the pallet; and

fixing the article on the pallet, wherein

an article-fixing member is accommodated to the pallet such that the article-fixing member can be pulled out when the article is to be packed and is wound around the article to firmly fix the article on the pallet, wherein

a removable ceiling plate ~~which can be opened and closed~~ is used, when the article is packed, the removable ceiling plate is ~~opened~~ removed, the article-fixing member is wound around a surface of the article below a position where the ceiling plate will be once the removable ceiling plate is replaced, a cover is disposed between the position where the removable ceiling plate will be once the removable ceiling plate is replaced and the article, and then, the ceiling plate is ~~closed~~, ~~a cover which covers an inner periphery of the closed ceiling plate is disposed~~, the surface of the article below the ceiling plate and the ceiling plate ~~are fixed to each other through the cover~~ replaced, wherein

a document table corresponding to a surface below an automatic document feeder corresponding to the ceiling plate is provided with a sheet material whose covering area can be changed, the article-fixing member is wound around an upper surface of the sheet material, the sheet material and ~~[[a]]~~ the cover, which covers an upper portion of the automatic document feeder, are integrally formed together, and the automatic document feeder is fixed.